

The Salt Lake Tribune

I-15 project in Utah County at halfway mark

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The Salt Lake Tribune

Published: September 13, 2011 09:16AM

Updated: September 12, 2011 11:33PM

Some good news for embattled commuters in Utah County: The project to rebuild Interstate 15 there is now officially halfway complete — and on schedule to be finished in December 2012.

The Utah Department of Transportation said the project reached that milestone on Monday. It began construction in April 2010.

UDOT said some of the accomplishments of that 24-mile project between Lehi and Spanish Fork so far include:

- Moving more than 5 million tons of earth.
- Placing nearly 1 million square yards of concrete pavement that is 12 inches thick. That pavement is designed to last 40 years.
- Shifting traffic onto more than 136 lane-miles of new concrete pavement representing approximately 19 miles of the 24-mile project. Older pavement is now being replaced.
- Completing the longest two-span bridge move in the Western Hemisphere at Sam White Lane in American Fork.
- Installing 31 miles of drain pipe.
- Reconstructing and reopening bridges at Sam White Lane, Proctor Lane in Pleasant Grove, 200 South in Lindon and 2700 North in Spanish Fork.
- Utilizing lane shifts and other unique traffic configurations to keep travel lanes open whenever possible through the project corridor.
- 35 of 63 bridges are under construction.



Rick Egan | The Salt Lake Tribune I-15 freeway construction, looking south from an overpass in Utah County, Monday, September 12, 2011.

- Nearly 1,600 people work on the construction and management teams, making the I-15 CORE project one of the top 15 largest employers in Utah County.

UDOT said that during the next 15 months of construction, work will continue at an aggressive pace with paving new lanes, reconfiguring interchanges, working on ramp and bridge construction and shifting traffic along the entire 24-mile stretch.

By the end of 2011, crews plan to have the majority of the project shifted onto the new concrete pavement. By next summer, it plans to complete the section from Lehi to Lindon.

The I-15 CORE project is a complete reconstruction of I-15 in Utah County that will add two travel lanes in each direction on I-15 from Lehi to Spanish Fork.

The project will rebuild or replace 10 interchanges and 63 bridges, install new traffic management technology on major arterials in Utah County, and is designed to meet projected transportation demands through the year 2030.

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